

NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 241

December 2010

Convenor: Annette Larsen 758 3320
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

Committee: Judy Berntsen
Bev Mulqueen
Charles Le Breton

New Plymouth Branch
PO Box 429
New Plymouth 4340

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access off Whiteley Street carpark

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.

Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm:
Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms
Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

Christmas 2010

This year, our branch Christmas celebrations will be a pot luck dinner at the branch rooms.

BYO food, serving spoons, plates, cutlery, glasses, drinks.

Also bring your spouse / partner!

Date: Sunday 5 December 2010

Time: arrive at 6 pm for dinner at 6:30 pm.



Christmas Break

The branch rooms will be closed over the Christmas / New Year break.

Last day for 2010: Saturday 11 Dec

First day for 2011: Monday 10 January.

Have a great Christmas! Drive safely.

Best wishes for the New Year!



Last Meeting – Tuesday 2 November 2010

At the November branch meeting, two of our branch members talked about genealogy aspects of their recent trips to the UK.

Cela Beale explained her experiences with county registry offices in Devon. Prebooking online is essential, as research space is very limited. But inside, there is a great range of records, much of which is not available elsewhere (not even on the internet!).

John Pickering talked about his visit to the British Library, and the India Room there. Although it is difficult to get in (with lots of security), there are a lot of resources available there. John also covered visits to the public records office at Kew and the Swindon Rail Museum.

Back on New Zealand research, John presented some interesting stories from [PapersPast](#). Newspaper stories can provide lots of colour to our ancestors lives, explaining major events of the time and details of people's lives.

From the Convenor's Desk

- It is unbelievable that the year's end is almost on us! I hope to see as many of you as possible at our December pot-luck dinner and social evening.
- A big thank you to Cela Beale and John Pickering for being ready to speak to us at our November meeting. Unfortunately I was not well enough to be present, so missed out.
- Also I would like to thank all of you that have done things to help out over the last months. Our Branch can only function to the level that people are prepared to get involved.
- The committee's thoughts are now focussed on next year's programme. We are always grateful for your suggestions.
- Disappointing that Lady Teviot has had to cancel her NZ trip and visit to New Plymouth due to unforeseen circumstances.
- On the personal research front – I am excited about "genesreunited" again! Over a year ago I wrote to someone on genesreunited and got no response whatsoever. I really wanted to contact this lady, to the extent that I looked in the Australian whitepages online. She had an unusual surname but there were too many still to pin it down to one phone number. I have learned a valuable lesson

again about the genes site. Be persistent! I sent another message to the lady in question via genesreunited, expressing my disappointment on not hearing from her. Finally I have had a response. For those of you who were present at my recent talk on Leslie Norman with the 2 families, I can tell you she traces back to Leslie Norman's Australian family, not the NZ one. Watch this space!

- It remains for me to wish you a very happy Xmas and best wishes for 2011. Take care on the roads if you are travelling over the Xmas period. Look forward to seeing you all in 2011. Happy researching too!

Annette Larsen

Lady Teviot visit cancelled!

Unfortunately, Lady Teviot has had to cancel her lecture tour of New Zealand. This was planned for February.

Lady Teviot is President of the UK Family History Societies, and was going to speak at our New Plymouth Branch rooms on 12 February, 2011.

Wises Post Office Directories

One day while I was doing library duty, I decided to check out the Wises Post Office Directories. I was looking to see if my great grandfather's brother Edwin Alldridge, who has been somewhat elusive, appeared in them.

While I did not find Edwin, I wrote down all the Alldridge's in the 1944, 1948 and 1952 directories. Thankfully there were not many and I could account for all except for one – a George Alldridge who lived in Seddonville (Buller district). My great grandfather also had a brother George who was equally elusive. He only appeared in the 1944 Directory. I began thinking about this George – could he be my gt gt uncle? I then searched the Historical BDM site and found a George Alldridge had died in 1943 (I had previously overlooked this one because of the age given, this is a mistake). The Directories would have been printed some months in advance and someone who died at least six months previously could still be found in the next years directory.

The only way I would know for certain that this



George was my gt gt uncle was to send away for the Death Printout. This was a gamble but my reasoning was if it was the right one he had a sister who lived in Seddonville. The printout duly arrived a week later and the father's name was given as John Alldridge (instead of Henry) and age was 81 instead of 78 but mothers name was Esther Alldridge nee Shaw and he was born in Nelson. He died as a result of being burned to death in a house fire and it was a Coroners Verdict.

Why he joined his sister in the Buller region I do not know for sure, but he had been in the district for about 20 years prior to his death (from Electoral Rolls). The few details that were incorrect in on the printout, well the Coroner can only go with the information given. I am now awaiting the Coroner's Report from National Archives.

Do not ignore the Directories, they are a good source for finding people and had I not decided to search them I may still be looking for George. As for Edwin well he has died somewhere either overseas or in the rugged New Zealand countryside and never been found or he is alive and about 150 years old and in all probability I may never find him.

Raewyn Evans

Thank You !

Sincere thanks to Markham Grey, who has donated a computer monitor for use in our branch rooms. This generous offer is very much appreciated by the branch.

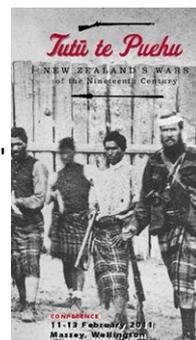
NZ Family History Fair 2011

The 2011 Family History Fair will be held on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2011, at the Claudeland Events Centre at Hamilton.

<http://nzfhf2010.dnserver.net.nz/>

History Conference: NZ Wars of the 19th Century

In February 11-13 at Massey University, Wellington, there will be a conference "Tutu te Puehu" on New Zealand's Wars of the Nineteenth Century.



Speakers include Prof James Belich (defending his thesis about Maori inventing trench warfare) and Dr Monty Soutar from New Zealand, Dr Peter Stanley from Australia, Prof Bruce Vandervort from USA and Prof Ian Beckett from UK. The conference is officially supported by the Ministries of Defence, Culture & Heritage and Te Puni Kokiri.

<http://www.phanza.org.nz/content/tutu-te-puehu-new-zealands-wars-conference-11-13-feb-2011>

<http://timespanner.blogspot.com/2010/10/tutu-te-puehu-new-zealands-wars-of-19th.html>

NZ 1911 Electoral Roll

The branch has purchased a copy of the NZSG 1911 electoral roll CD. Over 590,000 people were registered for the 1911 general election, so this roll is a valuable record of New Zealanders from just before World War 1.

The 1911 Electoral Roll on CD is searchable across all the electorates in the country, making it a simple matter to locate ancestors who had moved electorates since the previous enrolment, or whose electorate boundaries had changed. This CD contains the lists of citizens who were eligible to vote and includes electorate maps from Alan McRobie's New Zealand Electoral Atlas.

More help for your research

Find others who are researching the same families as you, get ideas for solving a brickwall, get questions answered.

Members are invited to use our branch newsletter to list surnames they are researching, or problems they are facing.

Just advise any committee member, or our newsletter editor.



UK online parish clerks

Have you had a look at the UK ONLINE PARISH CLERKS SITE?

www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk

The website links to the following counties: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Lancashire, Somerset, Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire.

The counties in this scheme have volunteers who collect genealogical information about a specific parish and answer email enquiries without charge.

Several other counties are covered by similar schemes. Kent has an OPC but it is independent of the main scheme. It takes donations for its research.

I am mainly interested in Sussex, so had a look at the Sussex OPC site www.sussex-opc.org

The free searchable data on the site includes baptisms, burials, marriages, MIs, census returns, wills, postcards and images, postal directories, poll registers, protestation returns, gazette index. I was very impressed. It certainly was worth a look!

The thing about these sort of sites is that the amount of data on them is continually growing.

Therefore it is good to check them out again once in a while. And yes, I did find some information I didn't have on my Baldwin lot!

Annette Larsen

Library News

Recent magazines (without CD);
Practical Family History
(December).



Newsletters received;

November: Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Motueka, Wairarapa, Waitara, Wellington, Whakatane

Top 10 Indications of a geneaholic

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendent.
9. You've never met any of the people you send email to, even though you're related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
6. You've ever taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but also you understand it.
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1881 census index.
2. More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 16 January 2011, at the branch rooms.



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

